



[17306/101]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : George Nelson BLISS et al.
Serial No. : 09/849,006
Filed : May 4, 2001
For : APPARATUS FOR RELEASING ITEMS WITHIN A
CONFINED SPACE
Examiner : Paul T. Chin
Art Unit : 3652
Confirmation No. : 1810

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Date: June 20, 2003

Signature: _____

Clifford A. Ulrich

Reg. No. 124194

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AMENDMENT

S I R:

In response to the Office Action of December 20, 2002, kindly amend
the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

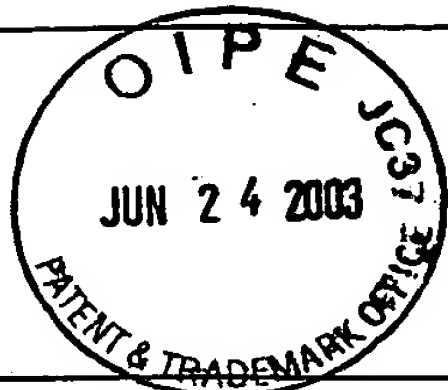
On page 1, replace the paragraph starting on line 2 with the following
replacement paragraph:

--This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/484,340, filed
on January 18, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,237,978, which is a continuation-in-part
of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/008,685, filed on January 16, 1998, now
U.S. Patent No. 6,056,341, each of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by
reference thereto.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, 19, 21 and 23, without prejudice,
as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for gripping and releasing at least one item,
comprising:
a pickup head;



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3652
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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Docket Number
17306/101

Application Number
09/849,006

Filing Date
May 4, 2001

Examiner
Paul T. Chin

Art Unit
3652

Confirmation No.
1810

Invention Title
**APPARATUS FOR RELEASING ITEMS
WITHIN A CONFINED SPACE**

Inventor(s)
BLISS, et al.

Address to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: Date: June 20, 2003 Reg. No. 42,194

Signature:

Clifford A. Ulrich

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified patent application is the following:

1. Amendment in response to the December 20, 2002 Office Action.
2. Applicants respectfully request a **three-month** extension of time in which to respond to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2002, for which a three month response period expiring on March 20, 2003 was set. The three-month extended period expires on June 20, 2003. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the **three-month extension fee of \$930.00**, and any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of **Kenyon & Kenyon**, deposit account number **11-0600**.
3. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Dated: June 20, 2003

By:

Clifford A. Ulrich (Reg. No. 42,194)

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